

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Roger K. Plumley
Serial No. : ~~Not assigned~~ 07/770,019
Filed : 10/01/91
Title : WIRE MANAGEMENT GROMMET

Grp./Div. : To be assigned
Examiner : To be assigned

Docket : 23516

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
January 3, 1992

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed herewith are copies of patents and publications developed in a prior art search conducted by the applicant of the above identified patent application. These references are cited in the attached form PTO-1449. It is requested that they be considered by the examiner.

The patents include U.S. Design Patent No. 285,044 to Mockett and U.S. Patent No.s 3,783,175 to Timmons; 4,053,701 to Ogilvie; and 4,730,363 to Asbaghi. The printed publications include the 1989 Doug Mockett & Company stock catalog, the 1990 ITW Plastiglides stock catalog, the 1990 Mold Rite, Inc. stock catalog, the 1990 Weber Knapp Company stock catalog, the 1990 E. B. Bradley Co. stock catalog, the Slidex Corp. stock catalog, and the 1990 Outwater Plastic Industries stock catalog.

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(DATE SIGNED) *R. K. Plumley*

The Mockett patent discloses an annular liner member and a flat circular disk-shaped cap having a slot opening sized to accommodate the passage of wires or cords. The annular liner is inserted into a hole made into the furniture surface and the cap is fitted within the liner.

The Timmons patent discloses a wiring grommet similar to the Mockett device, the only difference exists in the cooperation between the disk-shaped cap member and the annular liner member. Like Mockett, the disk-shaped cap comprises a slot opening sized to accommodate the passage of wires or cords. In Timmons, however, the liner is recessed into the surface of the furniture member. The recessed position of the liner causes the cap's surfaces to exist in a coplanar orientation with the furniture surface.

The Ogilvie patent discloses a wiring grommet to be used in conjunction with the marginal edge of a furniture surface. The device comprises a three-sided annular liner and an approximately complementary three-sided cap having a slot opening. The liner is slid into a U-shaped channel cut into the marginal edge of a furniture surface and the cap is slid into the liner such that its edge is coterminous with the marginal edge of the furniture object.

The Asbaghi patent discloses a wiring grommet similar in shape to that disclosed in Mockett except that the disk-shaped cap comprises a retractable slot closure that is movably captive to the cap. This feature permits the closure of the cap's slot opening by a means dependant to the cap.

The Doug Mockett & Company catalog (pages 4-5) discloses the wiring grommet claimed in the Mockett patent having no slot closure member.

The 1990 ITW Plastiglide catalog (pages 67-70) discloses wiring grommets having both snap-in slot closures that exist independent from the cap member and the wiring grommet disclosed in Asbaghi having a retractable slot closure captive to the cap member.

The 1990 Mold Rite, Inc. catalog discloses wiring grommets similar to that disclosed in Mockett having no slot closure member.

The 1990 Weber Knapp Company catalog discloses wiring grommets similar to that disclosed in Mockett having no slot closure member.

The 1990 E. B. Bradley Co. catalog discloses a wiring grommet having a slot closure rotationally captive to the underside of the disk-shaped cap.

The Slidex Corp. catalog discloses wiring grommets similar to that disclosed in Mockett having no slot closure member.

The 1990 Outwater Plastic Industries stock catalog discloses wiring grommets having a snap-in slot closure member existing independently from the cap member.

All of the applicant's claims are believed allowable over anything fairly shown or suggested in the above references. For example, many of the references do not disclose or suggest a wiring grommet having a slot closure that is captive to the grommet's cap member. Further, those references that do disclose a wiring grommet having a captive

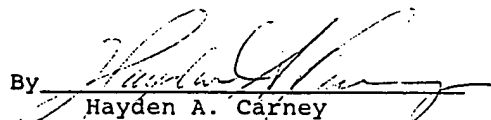
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closure member do not disclose a closure member that is: (1) capable of both fitting firmly within the slot opening when in use; (2) capable of accurate slidable movement into its retracted position when not in use; and (3) aesthetically desirable in either position.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE

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